

in the former Figure 1 that were not illustrated in it. No new matter has been entered.

4 & 5. The Abstract, as amended, complies with all the requirements mentioned in those paragraphs.

6. A correction has been made to comply with the Examiner's objection. The text inserted was unintentionally omitted when re-typing the English translation of the German priority document.

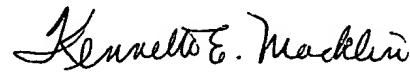
7 & 8. The claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

9-13. In view of the amendment of claims in accordance with the Examiner's request in paragraph 11 and for the reasons stated by the Examiner in paragraph 12, the application should be allowable over the prior art, Loxley et al., discussed by the Examiner in paragraph 10 of the Official Action. The applicants have reviewed the prior art made a record and not relied upon by the Examiner in paragraph 13 of the Official Action, but do not believe that Strack, Yoshimura et al., Harding, Imoto et al., and Smith are relevant to the invention as claimed in the subject application.

In view of the foregoing amendments, therefore, the applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully solicited.

With a view towards expediting allowance of the application, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call from the Examiner to discuss any objections the Examiner may have.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth E. Macklin

Reg. No. 20,875

MILDE, HOFFBERG & MACKLIN  
10 Bank Street - Suite 460  
White Plains, NY 10606  
(914) 949-3100



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being  
deposited with the United States Postal Services  
as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,  
Washington, DC 20231 on 11-30-98

By Kenneth E. Macklin  
Date 11/30/98